

GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT TITLED GRAND JURY REPORT 2001: COUNTY OF MONTEREY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOSTER CARE PROGRAM
RESPONSE TO FINDINGS by Department of Social Services (Monterey County Board of Supervisors) (Agency)

[as required by Section 933.05(a) California Penal Code

Find- ing #	Check One §933.05(a)		Specify the portion of the Finding that is disputed and include an explanation of the reasons <input type="checkbox"/> herefore.
	(1)	(2)	
From Grand Jury Final Report	The respondent agrees with the Findings	The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with Finding: see next column	<u>CONTINUE ON ATTACHED SHEETS AS NECESSARY</u>
1		X	See Attached
2	X		See Attached

COUNTY OF MONTEREY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

FINDING #1: Department of Social Services lacks an adequately funded follow-up program to ensure the success of foster youth transitioning to adulthood (beyond the age of 21).

RESPONSE: The Department of Social Services partially disagrees with the finding that there are inadequate funds for a follow-up program to ensure successful transition to adulthood, in that resources are now available.

New funding for the Independent Living Program (ILP) has become available over the course of the past two fiscal years and new options for transitional housing programs are currently becoming available. The Department has been pursuing and utilizing the expanded ILP funds and planning for transitional housing options. As of fiscal year 2001-02 expanded ILP services have been implemented and development of transitional housing programs are being explored. Currently, our ILP program has grown to \$429,766 across funding sources. However, the Department agrees with the Grand Jury's findings in two areas:

- 1) These programs prepare youth for adulthood but do not extend beyond the age of 21.
- 2) While funding has been become available over the past two years, the Department has had some implementation obstacles that have just recently been overcome. Critical issues include difficulty hiring a program coordinator at a time when there was a statewide social worker shortage and response to the initial RFP process to arrange community partners for service delivery.

FINDING #2: Department of Social Services lacks adequate staff and funds to gather data from which to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the County's Foster Care Program.

RESPONSE: The Department of Social Services agrees with the finding that there is a lack of adequate resources to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the County's Foster Care Program.

While the Department has been conducting focus groups with foster youth, foster parents, staff and community members to assess needs in the Foster Care Program, we believe further expansions to evaluate quality and effectiveness are needed. To this end we have begun preliminary conversations with the State to pursue software to improve our management information – Safe Measures. We are also in the process of implementing customer satisfaction survey for foster parents. However, sufficient resources are not currently allocated to expand our program and outcome evaluation efforts to the extent that we can follow through on outcomes for children beyond reunification or emancipation.

GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT TITLED GRAND JURY REPORT 2001: COUNTY OF MONTEREY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOSTER CARE PROGRAM
RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS by Department of Social Services (Monterey County Board of Supervisors) (Agency)

as required by Section 933.05(b) California Penal Code]

Rec. #	Check One §933.05(b)				Time frame, explanation, summary (attached), etc.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
From Grand Jury Final Report	Has been implemented, include summary of action	Will be implemented, include time frame	Requires further analysis, include time frame	Will not be implemented, include explanation	<u>CONTINUE ON ATTACHED SHEETS AS NECESSARY</u>
1		X			See Attached
2			X		See Attached

COUNTY OF MONTEREY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION #1: The Department of Social Services' Foster Care program collaborate with other foster care and adoption programs in the County, such as the Kinship Center, to identify after-emancipation support, information, programs and approaches, in order to improve the quality of support services for foster youth transitioning to adulthood.

RESPONSE: The recommendation will be implemented.

The Department of Social Services will continue to collaborate with community partners as it further develops the Independent Living Program, including development of transitional housing and California Youth Connections. Program stability, barring staff turnover, should be achieved during FY 2002-03.

The Department also is planning to implement a wrap-around program under SB 163. This program will serve older children experiencing instability in their foster placements to provide more consistency in caring for their needs and preparing them for adulthood. The Department's plan is calendared for the Board of Supervisors agenda March 12th and the program will be phased over a period of 18 months after start-up.

RECOMMENDATION #2: The Board of Supervisors allocate funds sufficient to staff a comprehensive follow-up program for foster youth who have transitioned to adulthood. This program should include collection of data on the quality of publicly funded foster care programs in the County. This program should also include a system of case management, allowances, and housing support designed to help these young adults become independent and successful in the future.

RESPONSE: Requires further analysis.

Sustainable funding is required to implement a comprehensive follow-up program for foster youth. AB 427 provides the structure for such a program but has a 60% local share of cost. A comprehensive analysis for implementing AB 427 would be required. Given community input into the process, this may require six to nine months.

GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT TITLED: COUNTY OF MONTEREY WORKFORCE HIRING/RETENTION
 RESPONSE TO **FINDINGS** by County Administrative Office, Fiscal and Organizational Policy,
Leadership Institute (Monterey County Board of Supervisors) (Agency)

[as required by Section 933.05(a) California Penal Code]

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1	X		See Attached
2	X		See Attached
3	X		See Attached
4	X		See Attached
5		X	See Attached
6	X		See Attached
7	X		See Attached
8	X		See Attached